

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

JOSEPH LEONARD SMITH, JR.,	§	
TDCJ No. 2398791,	§	
	§	
Petitioner,	§	
	§	
V.	§	No. 3:23-cv-1594-B
	§	
DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID,	§	
	§	
Respondent.	§	

**ORDER ACCEPTING FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE AND
DENYING CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY**

The United States Magistrate Judge made findings, conclusions, and a recommendation in this case. No objections were filed. The District Court reviewed the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation for plain error. Finding none, the Court **ACCEPTS** the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge.

The Court therefore denies Petitioner's construed motion for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) [Dkt. No. 22].

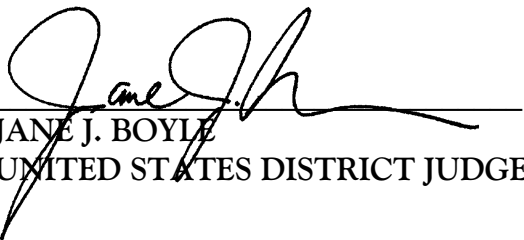
And, because a certificate of appealability ("COA") "is required to appeal the denial of a Rule 59(e) motion in a habeas case." *Mitchell v. Davis*, 669 F. App'x 284, 284 (5th Cir. 2016) (citing *Ochoa Canales v. Quarterman*, 507 F.3d 884, 887-88 (5th Cir. 2007))), the Court has considered the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 proceedings, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the Court **DENIES** a COA. The Court adopts and incorporates by reference the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions,

and recommendations filed in this case in support of its finding that the Petitioner has failed to show (1) that reasonable jurists would find this Court's "assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong," or (2) that reasonable jurists would find "it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right" and "debatable whether [this Court] was correct in its procedural ruling." *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).¹

But, if Petitioner does file a notice of appeal, he must either pay the appellate filing fee or move for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: May 20, 2024.



JANE J. BOYLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Cases, as amended effective on December 1, 2009, reads as follows:

(a) Certificate of Appealability. The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

(b) Time to Appeal. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.

